

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #1

July 2008

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, & opportunities district staff addressed during the month.

Enrollment

Grade	GW	SE	VN	Grade	MMS	District
PreK	21	21	21	5	137	
K	38	35	34	6	141	
1	34	41	50	7	139	
2	30	49	47	8	164	
3	33	48	50			
4	38	39	45			
Total	194	233	247		581	1255

- Additional enrollments are expected prior to the start of the school year.
- Requested updated Enrollment Projections.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	1
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	1	3

- Janice Mills, cafeteria manager at the middle school was awarded the National Louise Sublette Award of Excellence. She was recognized for her program *Looking at Connecticut History through the Eyes of a School Kitchen*.
- The Personnel Committee met regarding negotiations involving the SEIU and Mansfield Administrators' Association.
- Discussions with the State Department of Education Certification Bureau regarding a Middle School mathematics endorsement.

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 122	96/78.7%	95/77.9%	83/68%	-----
4 – 132	92/69.7%	95/73.1%	89/68.5%	-----
5 – 141	115/81.6%	116/84.1%	109/77.3%	121/85.8%
6 – 136	103/75.7%	92/67.6%	106/78.5%	-----
7 – 159	126/79.7%	125/78.6%	135/86%	-----
8 – 150	150/74.5%	119/78.5%	125/83.9%	127/84.7%

Initial review by district and building administration, along with selected support staff has begun.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Summer work on K-8 Language Arts Curriculum.
- Summer work on K-8 Mathematics Curriculum.
- Three-day Web 2.0 training conducted with twenty teachers in grades four, seven, and eight.
- Review of document cameras to integrate with the new elementary math curriculum was initiated.
- Other selected summer curriculum projects have been completed by staff.
- *Bridges in Mathematics Program* materials were ordered.

Budget

- Reconciliation of all items related to the 2007-2008 budget with a final balance of +\$249,000 due primarily to savings in *Classroom Instruction-Certified* and *Salary & Wages*
- Verbal request from Town Manager's Office to reduce the adopted Mansfield Board of Education Budget by \$155,825.

Policies

Revision of Mansfield Board of Education Policies to reflect recent changes in legislation are being drafted by Shipman and Goodwin for review by the Policy Committee.

Building and Grounds

- Summer cleaning of Goodwin prior to the start of summer school.
- Summer cleaning of Southeast.
- Summer cleaning of Mansfield Middle School while hosting Parks and Recreation Camp Mansfield and summer school.
- Town installation of a handicap accessible ramp to the playground area at Goodwin.
- Town officials review of Mansfield Middle School fuel conversion plans prior to going out to bid.
- Damage to music room at Mansfield Middle School reported by resident as the result of a driving lesson.
- Rain leaking on occasion into Mansfield Middle School library.
- Work began on redesign of Vinton School front office.
- Planned relocation of Southeast refuse containers.

Programs

- Summer school began on July 14, 2008 at both Goodwin Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School. Approximately one hundred students were invited to attend with approximately seventy-five actively participating. All summer school classrooms are air conditioned. The program runs from 9:00am-12 noon Monday through Friday for four weeks.
- Town sponsored Camp Mansfield began on June 25th at Mansfield Middle School with approximately one hundred and fifty students per session.

Communication

- Update of district parent handbook.
- Update of individual school handbooks.
- Discussion of district priorities at retreat.
- Monthly meeting schedule with Town Manager initiated.
- Schedule of meetings with Tri-Town Superintendents initiated.
- Schedule of meetings with bargaining unit heads initiated.

Security

- Installation of buzzers and cameras at designated doors at each school as a result of the State of Connecticut Security Grant.
- Distribution of proximity swipe card to schools for use by all staff during the next school year.

Professional Development

- Individual teachers attended specific strands at Confratute.
- Volunteer second grade teachers from the three elementary schools participated in M² training with Dr. Kathy Gavin at the University of Connecticut in preparation for year one of a three year grant involving high interest, high challenge mathematics units.
- Web 2.0 training was conducted by district staff with support from EASTCONN to prepare for a year long development and implementation of a unit of instruction in grades four, seven, and eight using Web 2.0 tools with all students at those grade levels.
- One teacher from each school attended *Bridges in Mathematics* training in Burlington, Vermont.

Technology

Administrative Applications

- Initial set-up of automated system for recording substitutes with new sub-caller.
- Virtual servers for Vinton School set up at Mansfield Middle School to reduce costs and increase reliability.
- Proximity swipe cards distributed to schools for 08-09 school year.
- Initial investigation of alternatives to SASI school software with Region 19.

Energy

- Request for building level data regarding energy usage for 07-08.
- Discussion with Parks and Recreation Department regarding the efficient use of public school buildings after school hours and when the schools are closed.

Other

- Bus routes are being revised to reflect current enrollment.
- Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program to develop specification for buses and survey to be sent to parents.
- Participated in July meeting of Blueprint for Mansfield's Children Leadership Work Group.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.